
December 2002, Injury Prevention Newsletter

Alaska News & Resources

1. Sledding Safety
2. Office of the Alaska State Fire Marshal gives advice
3. The State Alcohol Related Fatality Rates Report

National News and Resources

4. Surveillance for Traumatic Brain Injury Deaths
5. Children Are Not Waking Up with Smoke Alarms
6. Preventing Cold Weather Injuries

Miscellaneous

7. Product Recalls
8. For Fun

1. Sledding Safety: The following article found in the Anchorage Daily News (ADN) starts out about Anchorage and sledding hills. You will find safety information and data about sledding injuries toward the end of the article.

Slip Sliding Away: With a little snow, kids of all ages head to the sledding hills

By Elizabeth Manning, Anchorage Daily News

On a frosty moonlit night last week, seven boys trudged up a sledding hill at Nunaka Park. "Ready, set, go," they shouted at the top before hurling themselves onto hard plastic sleds.

Two of the boys shot straight down while the rest careened left and right. Like heat-seeking missiles, they aimed for their friends and tried to wrest them from their sleds. Within seconds, most boys lay tangled in a dogpile. Down at the bottom of the hill, one of the two unscathed sledders proclaimed himself winner.

"Nun-uh," someone from the pile shouted back. "That's cheating. You can't just race. You have to battle."

You can read the full story online at: <http://www.adn.com/outdoors/story/2362622p-2416763c.html>

2. Candles are used to scent our homes and provide ambiance. The following advice from the Office of the Alaska State Fire Marshal is good advice all year and especially during our Alaskan winters.

STATE FIRE OFFICIALS URGE SAFE USE OF CANDLES DURING HOLIDAY SEASON

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, candles are responsible for about 9,400 home fires and 90 fatalities each year, and about one-fourth of all candle-related fires occur during the holiday season.

That's why State Fire Marshal Gary Powell and the Alaska Division of Fire Prevention are encouraging home-owners to use extra caution this holiday season.

Click here to continue this story: http://www.peninsulaclarion.com/stories/120902/peo_1209020011.shtml

3. The ADN reported Thursday, December 19, 2002 on "Recent indicators on alcohol related motor vehicle crashes indicate Alaska is improving but still above the national norm." The information reported on was from The State Alcohol Related Fatality Rates Report and can be accessed at www.nhtsa.dot.gov

4. Surveillance for Traumatic Brain Injury Deaths --- United States 1989--1998.html

The complete summary can be found at the CDC website www.cdc.gov under the MMWR section for December 6, 2002/51 (ss10); 1-16.

5. Recently there have been reports and tapings of children not waking up with smoke alarms or following through with escape plans as they were taught in the media. Please find a commentary and good solutions to these reports at the following web link.

Rude Awakening: A Conclusion Could Be Dead Wrong. Concern Could Be Greater Than Reality But Raises Good Questions. By NFPA President/CEO James M. Shannon

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=1945§ionId=9>

6. If you were not able to attend Dr. Giesbrecht's sessions at the EMS Symposium last November or the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Injury Prevention Workshop earlier this month—here is another chance to see what was discussed.

The following web link has the following video clips. **CLIP 1:** Cold Comfort: Strategies for survival if you fall through ice. **CLIP 2:** Getting That Sinking Feeling: The importance of proper outerwear to keep you afloat and alive, and, **CLIP 3:** Icy IQ: So what have we learned from my pain? Dr. Giesbrecht sums up how our bodies react to cold.

www.outsideonline.com/outside/features/200212/200212_popsicle_splash.html#

7. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission protects the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death from 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline at **800-638-2772** or CPSC's teletypewriter at **800-638-8270**. Other information about the CPSC, as well as checking on toy and other product recalls, is available on the web at: www.cpsc.gov

8. FOR FUN:

1. Which poison was used to murder the English professor named Dexter Cornell, played by Dennis Quaid, in the 1988 thriller movie "D.O.A."?
2. Batman has always been known for his colorful villains. In his cartoon show, which of his foes has a toxic name?
3. What was the title of the 1986 movie in which Sean Connery played the role of a monk investigating suspicious murders of fellow monks poisoned by arsenic-contaminated pages of a banned book?
4. In which hit movie do Jim Carrey and Cameron Diaz admire how methane sets off the color of a sunset?
5. Which popular cast member of the TV show "Frasier" nearly died on the set from an overdose of rat poison?

Answers:

1. Radium chloride 2. Poison Ivy 3. The Name of the Rose 4. The Mask 5. "Moose" the Jack Russell terrier who plays Eddie

This message has been compiled by the Section of Community Health and EMS (CHEMS), Alaska Division of Public Health and sent to subscribers of the AK-Prev and AHELP list-serves. It has also been sent as a "bcc" to others in Alaska including Public Health Centers, SAFE KIDS coalitions, Native Health organizations, and regional EMS Councils and Coordinators who may be interested and active in injury prevention and health promotion. The purpose is to share resources, breaking news, training opportunities, product recalls, and opinions to help prevent injuries to Alaskans. Feedback and contributions are encouraged. Contributions can be directed to Karen Lawfer: karen_lawfer@health.state.ak.us

Link for the AK-Prev and AK-EMSC list-serve:

http://chems.alaska.gov/ems_list_servers.htm

Link for the AHELP list serve:

<http://www.auroraweb.com/ahec>